WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for designing a facility, comprising:

a storage mechanism configured to store a plurality of symbols, the symbols representing components of the facility; and

a server coupled to the storage mechanism and configured to display a plurality of predefined layouts of the facility, the server being loaded with an association mechanism that applies the symbols to the predefined layouts to generate a facility drawing set.

2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising an application server having a memory that stores a plurality of attributes corresponding to the symbols.

3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the application server prepares at least one of a cost estimate and a materials list based upon the applied symbols.

4. The system of Claim 2, wherein the application server is configured to run at least one of a database application and a spreadsheet application to process the plurality of attributes.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the storage mechanism is accessible by a plurality of user stations.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the server provides a plurality of dialog boxes to guide selection of the symbols.

7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of dialog boxes are hierarchically arranged with respect to layers of the facility drawing set.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the facility includes by at least one of a utility facility, a water facility, and a gas facility.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the facility drawing set comprises construction drawings.

10. A method of designing a facility, the method comprising:

selecting a facility layout among a plurality of standard facility layouts;

retrieving a plurality of symbols from a symbol database based upon the selecting

step, the symbols representing components of the facility;

associating the symbols with the selected facility layout;

overlaying the symbols onto the selected facility layout; and

generating a facility drawing set based upon the overlaying step.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

displaying a plurality of design dialog boxes based upon the selecting step, the design

dialog boxes providing prompts to guide selection of the components of the facility; and

receiving input design information in accordance with the dialog boxes.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising retrieving a plurality of attributes

corresponding to the symbols.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising processing the plurality of attributes

using at least one of a database application and a spreadsheet application.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising generating at least one of a cost

estimate and a materials list based upon the overlaid symbols and the corresponding

attributes.

15. The method of Claim 10, wherein the facility includes by at least one of a utility

facility, a water facility, and a gas facility.

16. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more

instructions for designing a facility, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions

including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or

more processors to perform the steps of:

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retrieving a plurality of symbols from a symbol database based upon a selected facility layout among a plurality of standard facility layouts, each of the standard facility layouts corresponding to a plurality of symbols, the symbols representing components of the facility;

associating the symbols with the selected facility layout;

5   overlaying the symbols onto the selected facility layout; and

generating a facility drawing set based upon the overlaying step.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16; wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

displaying a plurality of design dialog boxes, the design dialog boxes providing prompts to guide selection of the components of the facility; and

receiving input design information in accordance with the dialog boxes.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of retrieving a plurality of attributes corresponding to the symbols.

19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of processing the plurality of attributes using at least one of a database application and a spreadsheet application.

20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of generating at least one of a cost estimate and a materials list based upon the overlaid symbols and the corresponding attributes.

20   21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein the facility includes by at least one of a utility facility, a water facility, and a gas facility.